

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1878

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1088

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CDS FORMS ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

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SUMMARY: CDS HAS FORMED ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WITH CHRISTIAN

DEMOCRATS IN ORDER TO AVOID USELESS COMPETITION FOR SAME VOTERS.
CDS CLAIMS TO BE BROKE. UNPUBLICIZED CONGRESS HAS CHOSEN NEW
PROVISIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. CENTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDS) VICE-PRESIDENT ADELINO
AMARO DA COSTA TOLD EMBOFF DETAILS OF ELECTORAL ALLIANCE ARRANGED
BETWEEN CDS AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) OF MAJ. SANCHES OSORIO.
ALLIANCE WAS ANNOUNCED TO PRESS ON FEB 26. DA COSTA SAID THAT
ALLIANCE WAS WORKED OUT THREE WEEKS AGO. ALLIANCE IS DESIGNED
TO PREVENT "CONFUSION" WHICH WOULD RESULT IF BOTH PARTIES
ATTEMPTED TO COMPLETE SEPARATELY FOR CONSERVATIVE VOTE. DA COSTA
ALLEGES THAT, IN ADDITION, PDC WILL GAIN CDS ORGANIZATIONAL
KNOW HOW; CDS WILL BENEFIT FROM PRESENCE IN ALLIANCE OF RESPECTED
AND POPULAR EX-MEMBER OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, SANCHES OSORIO.

2. ALLIANCE IS FIRST MADE TO DATE BY ANY MAJOR PARTY, AND IS
FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES ONLY. INDIVIDUAL PARTY PROGRAMS WILL BE
MAINTAINED. ALLIANCE IS CALLED UNIAO DO CENTRO E DEMOCRACIA-
CRISTA (CDS/PDC). IT WILL PRESENT SINGLE SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

3. CDS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS CONTINUE. PARTY IS UNABLE TO MEET
OBLIGATIONS, AND HAS APPLIED FOR A LOAN FROM PUBLIC BANK. CDS
ASKED MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MELO ANTUNES TO INTERCEDE ON
ITS BEHALF. PARTY CLAIMS NOT TO HAVE RECEIVED "A PENN" FROM
FRIENDLY EUROPEAN PARTIES SO FAR, AND TO HAVE DEBTS OF ONE MILLION
DOLLARS.

4. DA COSTA DENIED ALLEGATIONS IN RECENT EXPRESSO ARTICLE
THAT AT FEB 22 UNPUBLICIZED CDS CONGRESS A NUMBER OF OLD REGIME
FIGURES WERE PURGED FROM PARTY. HE DID ADMINT, HOWEVER, THAT
XAVIER PINTADO VOLUNTARILY RESIGNED FROM 19-MAN PROVISIONAL
DIRECTORATE FOR GOOD OF PARTY. A THIRD PHASE OF CONGRESS IS
SCHEDULED AFTE APRIL 12 ELECTIONS. AT THAT TIME PROGRAM OF PARTY
WILL BE APPROVED AND DEFINITIVE LEADERSHIP ELECTED.

5. EMBOFF QUERIED DA COSTA ABOUT CURRENT CONVENTIONAL WISDOM
THAT CDS "BURNED OUT" AS RESULT OF ATTACKS ONIT BY FAR LEFT
AND ASSOCIATION OF SOME OF ITS MEMBERS WITH OLD REGIME. ON
CONTRARY, SAID DA COSTA, CDS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ITS POLITICAL
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FUTURE (EXCEPT FOR FINANCES.) ALLIANCE WITH PDC WILL REMOVE
PROBLEMS FROM RIGHT. DESPITE WHAT CERTAIN AFM LEADERS SAY ABOUT
CDS TO FOREIGNERS, IN PRIVATE AFM EXPRESSES ADMIRATION FOR
REASONABLENESS OF CDS PROGRAM AND RESPECT FOR PRESIDENT DIOGO
FREITAS DO AMARAL. IT HOPES ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WILL PICK UP GOOD
CHUNK OF VOTE APRIL 12.

6. COMMENT: CDS ALLIANCE WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IS A MIXED BAG

AND WILL BRING PARTY CERTAIN PROBLEMS. PDC IS ALLEGED CONTAIN
MORE FAR RIGHTISTS THAN CDS. CDS OPPONENTS WILL MAKE USE OF
ALLIANCE TO BOLSTER ARGUMENT THAT CDS IS BUNCH OF FAR RIGHTISTS
-- AS THEY HAVE ALWAYS ALLEGED. CDS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED AN
ALLIANCE WITH PPD, BUT THEIR OVERTURES TO THAT PARTY UNFRUITFUL.
CDS BELIEVES THAT IT MUST MAKE A GOOD ELECTORAL SHOWING IN ORDER
TO ATTRACT NEW FUNDS AND MILITANTS TO PARTY IN TIME FOR NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS NEXT FALL. THEY COULD NOT RISK CHANCE THAT
PDC WOULD SPLIT CONSERVATIVE VOTE WITH THEM -- THEREFORE THIS
ALLIANCE IS A NECESSITY.
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